

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANILA 01958 131045Z

41

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 L-02 H-01 NIC-01 IO-10 SS-15

SIL-01 LAB-04 /062 W

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R 130924Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0591

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 1958

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, RP, ORIT, SOCI

SUBJECT: NATIONAL REFERENDUM: MORE ON COMELEC MEETING WITH
RELIGIOUS GROUPS

REF: MANILA 1914

1. TIMES JOURNAL FEBRUARY 13 CARRIED LEAD HEADLINE
"BISHOPS BUCK POLL BOYCOTT -- BUT URGE SAFEGUARDS FOR
NON-VOTERS", TO INTRODUCE ONE-SIDED ACCOUNT OF FEB. 12
COMELEC MEETING WITH VARIOUS RELIGIOUS GROUPS (SEE REF-
TEL). ARTILCE PLAYED UP PRO-GOVERNMENT ASPECTS OF
MEETING, CONVENIENTLY FAILING MENTION COMELEC REJECTION
POINTS 3 AND 4 OF CBCP STATEMENT ON REFERENDUM. LARGE
PORTION PRESS STORY DEVOTED TO REPORTING BASICALLY PRO-
REFERENDUM AND PRO-REGIME STATEMENT BY FR. CONSTANCE
FLORESCA, GENERAL MANAGER OF PHILIPPINE PRIESTS, INC.
(ORGANIZATION OF DIOCESAN FILIPINO PRIESTS). FLORESCA,
ACCORDING ACCOUNT (LATER VERIFIED BY AMERICAN JESUIT
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PAGE 02 MANILA 01958 131045Z

SOURCE), "ASSAILED CERTAIN RELIGIOUS ORDERS FOR ALLOWING

FOREIGNERS IN THEIR GROUP TO MEDDLE IN POLITICAL AFFAIRS OF COUNTRY." TIMES JOURNAL WENT ON STATE THIS WAS OBVIOUS REFERENCE TO RELIGIOUS ORDERS IN MINDANAO AND SULU WHO HAD SIGNED JANUARY 9 REFERENDUM BOYCOTT MANIFESTO (SEE MANILA 766).

2. COMMENT: APPEARS REGIME ATTEMPTING PROMOTE SPLIT WHICH HAS DEVELOPED WITHIN CHURCH HIERARCHY AS CONCERNS COMING REFERENDUM. AMERICAN JESUITS COMMENTED TO LABATT THEY PARTICULARLY CONCERNED AT BELOW-THE-BELT TACTIC OF TRYING DRIVE WEDGE BETWEEN FILIPINO AND FOREIGN PRIESTS. WHILE IT TRUE MINDANAO/SULU REFERENDUM BOYCOTT MANIFESTO SIGNED BY SEVERAL AMERICAN MARYKNOLL SOCIAL ACTION PRIESTS, MAJORITY SIGNATORIES FILIPINOS, INCLUDING BISHOPS CLAVER AND VARELA. IN MEANTIME, AIR WILL NOT BE CLEARED BY STATEMENT CURRENTLY CIRCULATING AMONG RELIGIOUS ORDERS TO BE SIGNED BY NON-FILIPINO MISSIONARIES. STATEMENT PLEDGES "FULL SUPPORT OF OUR BISHOPS AND RELIGIOUS SUPERIORS IN THEIR DEFENSE OF BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS." RIGHT TO ABSTAIN IN COMING REFERENDUM CONSIDERED BASIC HUMAN RIGHT. EMBASSY INFORMED NUMBER OF AMERICAN JESUITS HAVE ALREADY SIGNED DOCUMENT.
SULLIVAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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